DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0174/150793.01
Application No.: 09/577,250
Office Action Dated: December 31, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method for utilizing application's state dependency information ~~in relation to other applications~~ to efficiently perform a backup service operation in a computer system, comprising the acts of:

registering applications loaded in said computer system with an application dependency application programming interface (API) for communications of application's state dependency information ~~in relation to other said~~ among applications, a common software agent, a storage component utilized by said agent and a backup service;

~~said agent capturing and~~ storing ~~said dependency information~~ in said storage component at least one applications state dependency information; and

communicating said dependency information from said storage component to said backup service ~~for backup~~.

2.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said backup service includes a snapshot service.

3.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said backup service includes a determination of an application freeze order.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0174/150793.01
Application No.: 09/577,250
Office Action Dated: December 31, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

4.   (original) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said backup service includes an execution of the freezing of applications in the order reflected by the determined application freeze order.

5.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act of loading said application dependency application programming interface (API) into said computer system.

6.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act of said backup service requesting a set of application dependency information from a common software agent for use in connection with the restore operation.

7.   (original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said set of application dependency information is the minimum set of information from said storage component for successfully completing the restore operation.

8.   (original) A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising the act of said agent issuing a request to at least one registered application for information from said set of application dependency information requested by the service.

9.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act of at least one registered application communicating information to said agent in response to a request by said agent, said information relating to said at least one application's external dependencies.

10.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the act of unregistering an application.

11.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said API protocol is XML protocol.

12.   (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said agent stores said application dependency information in a tabular format reflective of hierarchical application dependencies in said storage component.

13.   (original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for instructing a client computer to perform the acts of a method recited in claim 1.

14.   (canceled)

15.   (canceled)

16.   (currently amended) An application programming interface (API) embodied in a computer readable media having computer executable instructions for use in a computer system, wherein said API enables an agent to collect, store and package information about ~~application's~~ state ~~dependency~~ dependencies ~~in relation to other loaded~~ among applications ~~in said system~~ in response to a request by a service ~~for backup~~, and thereafter delivers said application's state dependency information to said service for further processing by said service.

17.   (original) An API as recited in claim 16, wherein the service to which said agent delivers said information is a backup service.

18.   (original) An API as recited in claim 16, wherein said service includes a snapshot service.

19.   (original) An API as recited in claim 16, wherein said service includes a determination

of an application freeze order.

20.   (original) An API as recited in claim 16, wherein said agent stores said application

dependency information in a tabular format reflective of hierarchical application dependencies in

a storage component.

21.   (canceled)

22.   (currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

       a plurality of applications loaded in said system, wherein at least one said application has

at least one ~~of it's~~ external state dependency with other said applications associated therewith;

       a storage component for storing application state dependency information;

       an agent that functions according to communication protocols of an application

programming interface (API) in said system for processing said application's state dependency

information, wherein said application state dependency information includes information about

dependencies among applications executing on the system, ~~to communicate~~ communicated ~~said~~

~~dependency information~~ to said API from said agent and for storing ~~said~~ the application state

dependency information in said storage component; and

       a service for making requests to said agent for a set of ~~said~~ application state dependency

information ~~for backup~~, wherein said agent collects, stores and packages said application

dependency information in response to a request by said service, and delivers said set of

application state dependency information to said service for further processing by said service.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0174/150793.01
Application No.: 09/577,250
Office Action Dated: December 31, 2003

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

23.   (original) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein the service to which said agent delivers said information is a backup service.

24.   (original) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein said service includes a snapshot service.

25.   (original) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein said service includes a determination of an application freeze order.

26.   (original) A computer system as recited in claim 22, wherein said agent stores said application dependency information in a tabular format reflective of hierarchical application dependencies in a storage component.

27.   (original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein said set of application dependency information is the minimum set of information from said storage component for successfully completing the service.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank]